

On the European Day of Languages we celebrate Europe's rich linguistic heritage and the language learning that gives us access to that heritage.

Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage is one of its defining strengths, enshrined in the motto "United in diversity". The Council of Europe and the European Union embrace and protect multilingualism, recognising it as a cornerstone of democracy, inclusion and social cohesion. For this reason, the teaching and learning of multiple languages in our schools is not a cultural luxury but a political necessity: the means by which we bring the European ideal to life and reinforce the pluralistic, inclusive and forward-looking values that are central to the European project.

Empowering language learners

A motivation manifesto for the European Day of Languages

Learners are empowered by their language learning if they

- belong to a welcoming and supportive learning community
- are encouraged to share control of the learning process
- are simultaneously users and learners of their target language(s)

This manifesto calls for the development of a motivational ecology that

- insists on the equal value of all languages
- recognises the value and benefits of linguistic and cultural diversity

Download the full text of the [Motivation Manifesto](#) here.

Languages empower us because they



allow us to communicate and establish relationships with people who speak other languages



help us to understand cultures that would otherwise remain closed to us



enhance our career options



extend our identities



open up new pathways for academic and vocational study



broaden our critical awareness

regional and local authorities

policy makers, legislators and administrators

teachers' professional associations

language teachers

language learners

language teacher educators

parents' associations

The development of a motivational ecology depends on the mutually supportive efforts of...

curriculum developers

school inspectors

NGOs that are concerned with minority and regional languages, international relations and cultural exchange

school principals and managers

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